

App. No. 10/707,473

Resubmission (amendment corrected section) dated May 15, 2006

Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of April 13, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A shoe comprising:

a sole;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, said quarter being permanently attached to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, said vamp being split from and extended to overlap said quarter down one side of said upper, from the collar to the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a start position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching, in an end position, to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper being made of a flexible material therein ~~structured so that when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot;~~

a zipper provided along said horizontal split, extending from the start to the end position, such that said zipper lies substantially in only a single plane, said zipper and having a pull-tab functioning to close the split between the vamp and the quarter;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

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a second hook-and-pile fastener complementary to said first hook-and-pile fastener, provided on said quarter alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter; the shoe therein structured so that

said vamp falls open under its own weight when unzipped off said sole,

so that the shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot,

and

the shoe can be fastened securely onto the wear's foot in a single-stroke, in-plane operation of zipping said vamp from the start position onto the sole to close said vamp over the wearer's foot, and on reaching the end position, closing the pull-tab onto said quarter to engage said first and second hook-and-pile fasteners, thereby closing said vamp completely onto said quarter along the split therebetween, without zipping in any direction orthogonal or oblique to said single plane in which said zipper lies.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A shoe comprising:

a sole;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, said quarter being permanently attached to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, said vamp being split from said quarter down one side of said upper, from the collar to the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a start position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching, in an end position, to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper being made of a flexible material ~~therein structured so that~~

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~~when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot;~~

a zipper provided along said horizontal split, extending from the start to the end position, such that said zipper lies substantially in only a single plane, said zipper and having a pull-tab functioning to close the split between the vamp and the quarter;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

second and third hook-and-pile fasteners, said second hook-and-pile fastener being complementary to said first and third hook-and-pile fasteners, and provided on said quarter alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter, and said third hook-and-pile fastener being provided extending from said vamp, for overlying said second hook-and-pile fastener[[:]], whereby said first hook-and-pile fastener and said third hook-and-pile fastener are fastenable to said second hook-and-pile fastener to close said vamp onto said quarter; the shoe therein structured so that

said vamp falls open under its own weight when unzipped off said sole, so that the shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot, and

the shoe can be fastened securely onto the wear's foot in a single-stroke, in-plane operation of zipping said vamp from the start position onto the sole to close said vamp over the wearer's foot, whereby said third hook-and-pile fastener engagingly overlies said second hook-and-pile fastener, and on reaching the end position closing the pull-tab onto said quarter to engage said first and second hook-

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and-pile fasteners, thereby closing said vamp completely onto said quarter along the split therebetween, without zipping in any direction orthogonal or oblique to said single plane in which said zipper lies.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A shoe for the elderly and disabled, the shoe comprising:

a sole defining a heel area and a toe area, said toe area being thinner to the extent possible than the heel area;

an upper defining a quarter, a collar, and a vamp having a toe cap, said quarter being permanently attached to said sole and only unilaterally continuous with said vamp, said vamp being split from said quarter down one side of said upper, from the collar to the sole, and said upper being horizontally split along said sole starting in a start position on the vamp in the area for the ball of the big toe, running along the toe cap, and reaching in an end position, to where the vamp is split from the quarter, said upper being made of a flexible material ~~therein structured so that when said vamp is open off said sole, said shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's feet;~~

a zipper provided along said horizontal split, extending from the start to the end position, such that said zipper lies substantially in only a single plane, said zipper and having a pull-tab functioning to close the split between the vamp and the quarter;

a first hook-and-pile fastener provided on said pull-tab; and

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second and third hook-and-pile fasteners, said second hook-and-pile fastener being complementary to said first and third hook-and-pile fasteners, and provided on said quarter alongside where said vamp splits from said quarter, and said third hook-and-pile fastener being provided extending from said vamp, for overlying said second hook-and-pile fastener[;:] whereby said first hook-and-pile fastener and said third hook-and-pile fastener are fastenable to said second hook-and-pile fastener to close said vamp onto said quarter; the shoe therein structured so that

said vamp falls open under its own weight when unzipped off said sole,
so that the shoe may be stepped into without obstructing the wearer's foot,
and

the shoe can be fastened securely onto the wear's foot in a single-stroke, in-plane operation of zipping said vamp from the start position onto the sole to close said vamp over the wearer's foot, whereby said third hook-and-pile fastener engagingly overlies said second hook-and-pile fastener, and on reaching the end position closing the pull-tab onto said quarter to engage said first and second hook-and-pile fasteners, thereby closing said vamp completely onto said quarter along the split therebetween, without zipping in any direction orthogonal or oblique to said single plane in which said zipper lies.

Claim 4 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

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Claim 5 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

Claim 6 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 3, wherein said upper is made of a composite material composed of polychloroprene rubber foam to at least one side of which a synthetic fabric is laminated.

Claim 7 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 8 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 9 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 3, further comprising an insole, said insole including:

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an insole core made of a hard plastic material, said insole core along its underside having a heel area gently sloping rearward, said insole core therein being slightly thicker in its rearward portion; and

an insole cover made of a washable fabric and removable from said insole core.

Claim 10 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 1, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of 0.01 kgf/cm² or greater.

Claim 11 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 2, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of 0.01 kgf/cm² or greater.

Claim 12 (original): A shoe as set forth in claim 3, wherein said zipper has a water resistance of 0.01 kgf/cm² or greater.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A shoe composed of an upper, a heel portion, and a sole portion, with the heel portion being made up of a heel center portion and heel side portions, the upper section being horizontally openable/closable by means of a slide fastener, the shoe characterized in that:

the heel side portion along the inside part of the foot is continuous with the shoe upper, and the heel side portion along the outside part of the foot from the ankle-joint part to the insole part of the foot instep splits away, splitting the outer side of the upper, the split-away part of the upper where it splits from the heel side portion along the outside part of the foot including a seam allowance for overlapping the heel side portion along the split;

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a third hook-and-pile fastener is provided on obverse/reverse sides of the seam allowance along the split-away part of the upper;

a slide fastener splits the upper horizontally, and at the same time is provided on the horizontally splitting-away part of the upper, running along the insole from a position in the portion of the upper where the ball of the big toe is, passing along the toe cap, and reaching to the position of the ankle-joint split in the foot instep such that said slide fastener lies substantially in only a single plane, said slide fastener having a pull-tab functioning to close the split between the heel side portion and the upper;

a first hook-and-pile fastener is provided on ~~[[a]]~~ said pull-tab for the slide fastener; and

a second hook-and-pile fastener is provided on a heel-side-portion surface corresponding to for receiving the first hook-and-pile fastener; wherein

at the finish of a single-stroke, in-plane operation of closing the slide fastener,
the second hook and pile fastener on the heel side portion, the third hook-and-pile fastener on the split-away part of the upper, and the first hook-and-pile fastener on the slide fastener pull-tab fasten together to close the heel side portion completely onto the upper, whereby the shoe is fastened securely onto the wearer's foot.